UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/905
17 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda items 130 (a) and (b)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (A/48/700) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) (A/48/841). During its consideration of the items, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

I. UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

2. UNDOF was established by the Security Council in its resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974; its mandate has since been extended, most recently by Security Council resolution 887 (1993) of 29 November 1993, for another period of six months until 31 May 1994.

3. As stated in paragraph 4 of document A/48/700, as at 31 October 1993, assessments totalling $1,034.1 million had been apportioned among Member States in respect of UNDOF and the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II) for the period since their establishment in 1973-1974 to 30 November 1993. The Committee was informed that the figure of $21.1 million cited in the same paragraph as the difference between the total outstanding contributions of $58.6 million and the amount of $36 million transferred to a special account should read $22.6 million. The Committee was further informed that as at 28 February 1994, that figure had been reduced to $21.6 million.

4. In paragraph 10 of document A/48/700, the Secretary-General points out that "the unaudited financial statement for UNEF/UNDOF covering the 12-month period from 1 December 1991 to 30 November 1992, as at 30 June 1993, indicates that there is a surplus balance of $5,109,799 representing excess of income over expenditure"; income includes assessed contributions unpaid irrespective of collectibility. The Secretary-General proposes that, until the level of outstanding assessed contributions is reduced, the "surplus of $5,109,799, which otherwise would have to be surrendered as credits to Member States, be entered into the suspense account established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/13 E of 14 December 1978" (A/48/700, para. 11).

5. The Advisory Committee notes from the unaudited interim financial statements for the 18-month period of the biennium 1992-1993 ended 30 June 1993 that a total of $64.9 million is currently being held in suspense in respect of UNDOF.

6. The Advisory Committee, taking into account the balance of $64.9 million in the suspense account, the status of assessed contributions to UNDOF and the fact that full reimbursement in accordance with the standard rates of reimbursement has been made on a current basis to troop-contributing States (see A/48/700, para. 9), sees no need to enter the surplus balance of $5,109,700 into the suspense account. It therefore recommends that the surplus be credited to Member States.

Performance report for the period from 1 December 1992 to 30 November 1993

7. Annex II to the Secretary-General's report provides supplementary information in respect of the performance of UNDOF for the period from 1 December 1992 to 30 November 1993; a summary statement, by line item, of expenditures incurred during this period is provided in annex I. As shown therein, total savings are estimated at $706,000 gross ($640,000 net); the Secretary-General proposes to credit the $640,000 to Member States against their assessments in respect of such future mandate periods as may be approved by the Security Council (A/48/700, para. 12 (c)). The Advisory Committee concurs in this course of action.

8. As shown in annex I, an overexpenditure of $483,000 was incurred in respect of electronic data-processing (EDP) equipment, for which no resources had been budgeted in the original cost estimate for the period in question. The Committee notes the explanation contained under item 9 in annex II that "an extensive acquisition and installation of EDP equipment and software, undertaken in connection with the computerization programme for procurement and warehousing for UNDOF, including an electronic mail system, resulted in an overexpenditure".

9. In response to inquiry, the Committee was informed that the computerization programmes for both UNDOF and UNIFIL had been proposed by the respective Force Commanders to the Secretary-General in the context of the streamlining exercise for the two missions (see paras. 10 and 33 below); the proposed equipment was

required to compensate for the reduction in staff. The Secretary-General approved the proposal for UNDOF on 15 March 1992.

10. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in his report to the Security Council of 19 May 1992, the Secretary-General reported that "with a view to reducing expenditures, UNDOF is in the process of undergoing a streamlining, which will involve a 15 per cent reduction of each military contingent and of the internationally recruited civilian staff, with attendant savings in transport and accommodations ..." (S/23955, para. 3). In his subsequent report of 19 November 1992, the Secretary-General reported that the streamlining had been completed (S/24821, para. 2). The effect of that streamlining was reported by the Secretary-General in paragraph 8 of document A/47/620, wherein he noted that the estimate for the period from 1 December 1992 to 30 November 1993 incorporated a 15 per cent reduction in military personnel and civilian staff as well as reductions in the number of vehicles and savings in rental costs.

11. The Committee inquired as to why the Secretary-General's estimates as contained in document A/47/620 for the same period, i.e. 1 December 1992-30 November 1993, had not included provision for the data-processing equipment that was considered necessary in view of the streamlining (see paras. 8 and 9 above). The Committee was informed that the details for the proposed computerization had not been finalized at that point. Representatives of the Secretary-General also emphasized that, as indicated in item 9 (ii) in annex IV to document A/48/700, no provision for data-processing equipment was required in respect of the period from 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994.

12. Notwithstanding the above, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the fact that such a programme was envisaged should have been highlighted; i.e. the total impact of the streamlining should have been addressed, if only in general terms. The Committee also reiterates its oft-stated recommendation that adequate and complete explanations for savings/overruns be provided in performance reports. In this connection, the Committee points out that no detailed information has been provided in the performance report concerning the actual equipment procured under this programme. These observations are equally applicable to UNIFIL (see paras. 32 and 33 below).

Cost estimate for the period from 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994

13. The Secretary-General estimates the cost of UNDOF at $2,680,000 gross ($2,599,000 net) per month from 1 December 1993 onwards; the total costs for the period from 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994 are estimated at $32,160,000 gross ($31,188,000 net), as compared with the total of $35,704,000 gross ($34,793,000 net) for the 12-month period ending 30 November 1993 (see A/48/700, annex III). In this connection, the Secretary-General notes in paragraph 8 of the main report that the estimate incorporates an additional overall reduction of approximately 7.8 per cent in military personnel from an authorized strength of 1,124 troops to 1,036. A 6.7 per cent reduction in local costs is also proposed.

14. Annex V to document A/48/700 provides a breakdown of the current and proposed military strength; the Advisory Committee notes that a number of changes are foreseen including the scheduled withdrawal of the Finnish infantry

battalion referred to in paragraph 8 of the main report, as well as in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council of 22 November 1993 (S/26781), where the Secretary-General informed the Council that the "Finnish infantry battalion would be replaced by a Polish unit and that logistic support for the Force would be consolidated in the hands of the Canadian logistic unit."

15. A total of 120 civilian posts are proposed for the period in question, representing a decrease of 6 local posts. The Committee was informed that that was a consequence of the decrease in military strength. The Committee observes that this decrease is proportionally less than the decrease in military strength.

16. As shown in annex III, an amount of $462,000 has been included in the estimate in respect of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment. (The figure of $626,000 shown in annex IV, item 1 (c) (i) is incorrect.) The Committee was informed that the amount of $462,000 included provision of $96,800 for the procurement of 15 replacement vehicles, as discussed in item 5 (a) in annex IV to document A/48/700. As noted therein, the vehicles would be procured from troop-contributing Governments as contingent-owned equipment. The cost of the vehicles ($968,000), would be payable over a 10-year period; i.e. the equipment would be procured under a lease-purchase type of arrangement.

17. In response to inquiry, the Committee was informed that the balance of the estimate for reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment ($365,200) was based on payments to be made in accordance with a "30-30-20-20" depreciation scale.

18. The estimate for death and disability compensation amounts to $300,000. In response to inquiry, the Committee was informed that obligations amounting to $1.6 million exist in respect of previous periods and that there are a number of pending claims. The Committee reiterates its recommendation for a more detailed consideration of the entire question of death and disability compensation (see A/47/990, para. 26).

19. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $18,204,000 gross ($17,718,000 net) authorized and apportioned in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 47/204 for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1993. As mentioned above, the Committee also concurs in the Secretary-General's proposal to credit to Member States the amount of the unencumbered balance of $640,000 for the period from 1 December 1992 to 30 November 1993 against their assessments in respect of such future mandate periods as may be approved by the Security Council.

20. With regard to the period after 30 November 1993, the Advisory Committee recalls that, by its decision 48/463 of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the amount of $10,720,000 gross ($10,396,000 net) for the period from 1 December 1993 to 31 March 1994. By the same decision, the General Assembly decided that it was not necessary to assess that amount.

21. On the basis of the information before it, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly approve the Secretary-General's estimate of

$32,160,000 gross ($31,188,000 net) for the period from 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994. It further recommends that one half of that amount, i.e. $16,080,000 gross ($15,594,000 net) be appropriated and assessed at this stage in respect of the period from 1 December 1993 to 31 May 1994. Subject to the decision to be taken by the Security Council on the renewal of UNDOF after 31 May 1994, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be given commitment authorization not exceeding $2,680,000 gross ($2,599,000 net) per month for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1994, and that these amounts be assessed on Member States.

II. UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

22. UNIFIL was established by Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 for an initial period of six months and has since been extended, most recently by Security Council resolution 895 (1994) of 28 January 1994 for a further period of six months until 31 July 1994.

23. As shown in paragraph 4 of document A/48/841, as at 31 October 1993, an amount of $2,276.4 million had been assessed among Member States in respect of UNIFIL for the periods from inception of the Force to 31 January 1994. The Committee was informed that, as at 28 February 1994 the total of outstanding contributions in respect of that amount was $204.4 million, which does not include contributions due in respect of the apportionment authorized by General Assembly decision 48/464.

24. As indicated in paragraph 15 of document A/48/841, the unaudited financial statement for UNIFIL covering the 12-month period from 1 February 1991 to 31 January 1992 as at 30 June 1993 shows a surplus balance of $5,769,036, representing excess of income over expenditure; income includes assessed contributions irrespective of collectibility. The Secretary-General, in view of the level of outstanding assessed contributions, recommends in paragraph 16 that "the surplus of $5,769,036, which otherwise would have to be surrendered as credits to Member States, be entered into the Suspense Account established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/9 E of 17 December 1979".

25. The Advisory Committee notes from the unaudited interim financial statements for the 18-month period of the 1992-1993 biennium ended 30 June 1993 that a total of $90.4 million is currently being held in suspense in respect of UNIFIL.

26. The Committee also notes that, as discussed in paragraphs 11 to 14 and 17 of document A/48/841, UNIFIL has been unable to reimburse in full the amounts due to troop-contributing Governments for their participation in UNIFIL. Not only have reimbursements been met only up to 31 January 1991 (para. 17), but also the provisional reimbursement rate is less than the approved rates (paras. 12 and 13). As shown in paragraph 14 of document A/48/841, as at 31 October 1993, amounts due to former and current troop-contributing Governments for troop costs are estimated at $65.6 million.

27. Bearing in mind the status of unpaid contributions as well as the status of reimbursements to troop-contributing Governments, the Advisory Committee concurs

in the Secretary-General's proposal to enter the surplus balance of $5,769,036 into the Suspense Account.

Performance report for the period from 1 February 1993 to 31 January 1994

28. As shown in annex I to document A/48/841, savings in the amount of $1,194,000 are estimated in respect of the period from 1 February 1993 to 31 January 1994; the Secretary-General, in paragraph 18 (c) of the main report proposes to credit this amount to Member States against their assessments in respect of such future mandate periods as may be approved by the Security Council.

29. The Advisory Committee notes from annexes I and II to document A/48/841 that the overexpenditure under civilian staff costs relates in large measure to increased requirements for local staff and general temporary assistance, offset by savings in respect of international staff. As indicated under item 2 of annex II, additional local personnel were engaged under general temporary assistance to compensate for the vacant international posts.

30. In response to inquiry, the Committee was informed that personnel from both UNDOF and UNIFIL are frequently deployed to new peace-keeping operations in the initial stages in view of their expertise and experience. Instead of recruiting long-term replacements, additional local staff are often engaged; this trend is reflected in the staffing proposals for the period from 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995 (see para. 35 below).

31. Savings of $1,798,000 are estimated in respect of helicopter operations; as stated under item 6 in annex II, "the reduced requirements ... reflect the revised agreement with the Government of Italy, effective 1 July 1993, for the provision of a fleet of four Bell 205 helicopters at an annual cost of $1,140,000. No hourly costs would be charged to UNIFIL". The effect of this agreement also reflects on the estimates for the period from 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995 as shown in item 6 in annex IV.

32. The overexpenditure under other equipment is largely attributable to increased requirements for data-processing equipment related to the continuing computerization programme. As in the case of UNDOF (see para. 9 above), the computerization programme for UNIFIL, approved by the Secretary-General on 2 June 1992, was intended to compensate for the reduction in staff brought about by the streamlining exercise proposed by the Secretary-General for UNIFIL.

33. In this connection, the Committee recalls that recommendations for streamlining UNIFIL were proposed by the Secretary-General in his report of 28 January 1991 to the Security Council (S/22129/Add.1) and the Security Council approved the recommendations in its resolution 734 (1992) of 29 January 1992. In his report of 22 January 1993 (S/25150), the Secretary-General reported that UNIFIL had completed the 10 per cent reduction of its military strength as provided by Security Council resolution 734 (1992) and that posts for international and local staff had been reduced by 17 and 10 per cent respectively (para. 7).

Cost estimate for the period from 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995

34. The costs of UNIFIL for the period from 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995 are estimated at $11,857,000 gross ($11,474,500 net) per month; as shown in annex III, the total costs for this period are estimated at $142,284,000 gross ($137,694,000 net) as compared with $145,349,000 gross ($141,984,000 net) for the previous 12-month period.

35. As stated under item 2 in annex IV to document A/48/841, the Secretary-General proposes to abolish 37 international posts (6 General Service and 31 Field Service) and to establish 19 new local level posts, thereby reducing the overall staffing establishment by 18, from 542 to 524 posts, as shown in annex V to that document. This proposal relates, as discussed in paragraph 30 above, to the increased usage of local staff who are engaged to compensate for the deployment of international staff to other missions. The Committee was also informed that the reduction relates to the continued efforts to streamline its operations.

36. The estimate for electronic data-processing equipment amounts to $345,000 and provides for the equipment described under item 9 (b) in annex IV to document A/48/841. As pointed out above, no details were provided as to the equipment purchased during the previous mandate period, thereby hampering a review of the proposed requirements for the period from 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995. The Advisory Committee also expresses its concern with regard to some of the unit costs that have been quoted; in this connection it reiterates its concern with regard to procurement for peace-keeping operations that "current procedures need to be examined and urgent measures taken to enhance cost-effectiveness and efficiency" (A/47/990, para. 30).

37. The Committee was informed that the computerization programme in both UNDOF and UNIFIL was intended, inter alia, to support personnel, logistic, administrative, procurement and transport functions; it was also the intention of representatives of the Secretary-General to provide the Committee with a summary of the programme in both operations. The Committee does not recommend a reduction to the estimate at this stage; however, it trusts that the above-mentioned report will be submitted as soon as possible and that future submissions will provide more complete information in this regard.

38. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $146,280,000 gross ($143,178,000 net) authorized and apportioned under the terms of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 47/205 for the period from 1 February 1993 to 31 January 1994. As mentioned above, the Advisory Committee also concurs with the Secretary-General's proposal to credit to Member States the amount of the unencumbered balance of $1,194,000 for this period against their assessments in respect of future mandate periods.

39. With regard to the period from 1 February to 31 July 1994, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate an amount of $71,142,000 gross ($68,847,000 net), i.e. six months at a monthly rate of $11,857,000 gross ($11,474,500 net). In this connection, the Committee recalls that, by its decision 48/464, the Assembly decided to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the amount of $24 million

gross ($23.5 million net) for UNIFIL for the period from 1 February to 31 March 1994, should the Security Council extend the Force beyond 31 January 1994; the Assembly also decided to apportion the amount of $22,876,000 gross ($22,400,000 net) among Member States. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that an amount of $48,266,000 gross ($46,447,000 net) be assessed in respect of the above-mentioned appropriation.

40. Subject to the decision to be taken by the Security Council on the renewal of UNIFIL after 31 July 1994, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve commitment authority up to the level of $11,857,000 gross ($11,474,500 net) per month from the period from 1 August 1994 to 31 January 1995, and that these amounts be assessed on Member States.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/906
17 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 133

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/848) on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). During the course of its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information to the Committee.

2. Section I of the Secretary-General's report summarizes developments since the establishment of MINURSO by Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, including the appropriation of the amount of $143 million gross ($140 million net) by the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991, for the operation of MINURSO.

3. The Secretary-General's report also provides information on the status of assessed contributions and the unencumbered balance, voluntary contributions, the financial performance report for the period from 1 December 1992 to 31 December 1993 and cost estimates for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1994 and the observations of the Secretary-General.

4. In paragraph 26 of the report, the Secretary-General summarizes the actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, in connection with the financing of MINURSO.

5. With regard to assessed contributions, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 19 of the report that, as at 31 December 1993, of an amount of $140,911,223 apportioned among Member States, a total of $120,550,131 in

payments has been received, leaving a balance due from Member States of $20,361,092. The Advisory Committee was informed that the situation with regard to outstanding assessed contributions was virtually unchanged as at 7 March 1994.

6. The Advisory Committee is not satisfied with the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on voluntary contributions and the effect these contributions have on expenditures, especially with regard to the provision of fuel and food. In his next report on the financing of MINURSO, the Secretary-General should provide information on voluntary contributions in accordance with guidelines approved by the General Assembly.

7. Annexes I and II to the Secretary-General's report summarize and provide supplementary information in respect of the financial performance of the operation for the period from 1 December 1992 to 31 December 1993. As indicated therein, total expenditure amounted to $36,148,050 gross ($34,626,950 net), resulting in savings of $1,683,400 gross ($1,234,800 net) from the initial cost estimate.

8. As shown in document A/48/848, the Secretary-General estimates the cost of the operation for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1994 at $39,818,400 gross ($37,429,200 net) or $3.3 million gross ($3.1 million net) per month. Annexes III and IV to the Secretary-General's report provide a summary statement and supplementary information in respect of this estimate. The Advisory Committee points out that the presentation of estimates for MINURSO on a 12-month basis is for information purposes only. The Secretary-General has not submitted any proposal regarding the financial period of this operation.

9. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 23 of the report that the unencumbered balance of $34,655,950 gross ($35,247,050 net) as at 31 December 1993 will be sufficient to meet the cost of maintaining MINURSO at its current strength for a period of about 10 months. In paragraph 26 (c) of his report, the Secretary-General requests authorization to utilize this unencumbered balance for the maintenance of MINURSO, pending a further decision of the Security Council, at a monthly rate of $3,318,200 gross ($3,119,100 net).

10. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's report that, should the Secretary-General be in a position to propose to the Security Council a detailed timetable for holding a referendum in 1994, a revised cost estimate will be provided to the General Assembly.

11. The Advisory Committee has been informed that a correction has been made in the number of medical personnel from 50 to 41. The Committee notes from paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's report that there is a voluntary contribution of aircraft in support of the medical unit, together with 30 support personnel. The exact functions to be carried out by the support personnel have not been made clear to the Committee. On the basis of the revised number, the cost estimates in annex III, line item 1 (b), and annex IV, paragraphs 11 to 14 and 17, can be revised downwards. The corresponding reductions in the estimate would be $160,500 ($114,600 under standard troop cost reimbursement, $1,300 under welfare, $32,800 under rations, $4,200 under daily allowance and $7,600 under clothing).

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that, besides looking after the health of the mission personnel, the Medical Unit is treating the local population in the Mission area. Nevertheless, given the size of the Mission, the Advisory Committee believes that the total number of medical personnel is high.

13. A clarification was made with regard to mission subsistence allowance payable to all Mission personnel, excluding locally recruited staff and discussed in annex IV, paragraphs 2 to 4. The Advisory Committee was informed that full mission subsistence allowance is at the rate of $110 per person per day and is payable to staff who are away from their base duty stations but within the Mission area and who are not provided with accommodation and food. For staff who are provided with accommodation and food, the rate is $40 at Laayoune and $45 at other locations.

14. The Advisory Committee notes from annex IV, paragraph 29, that the assumption that "in any given weekend, 75 per cent of the staff (equivalent to 92) will be away from their base duty station". The Committee queries the justification for assuming that 92 members of the staff will be away on weekends. Moreover, the Committee does not believe that staff who are voluntarily away from headquarters and not on official duty should receive mission subsistence allowance at the rate of $110 instead of $40 or $45 as the case may be. In the circumstances, the Committee recommends a reduction of $708,400 in the estimate.

15. The Advisory Committee notes from annex IV, paragraph 5, that travel of mission personnel to and from the Mission area is by commercial means only and there is no provision for charter or group travel arrangement as has been the case in respect of other peace-keeping missions. The Committee was not provided with a justification for this. The Committee recommends that appropriate charter arrangements be explored with a view to reducing the high cost of travel.

16. The estimate provides for a 17-member movement control unit as part of the 341 military personnel (annex IV, para. 7). The Advisory Committee was informed that this is a unit specializing in cargo handling, including maritime aircraft and road/ground transportation. The unit works closely with the Chief Air Service Officer, who schedules movement of aircraft and ensures effective utilization of the Mission's fleet among the various locations of the Mission's units. In this connection, the Committee points out that the military force involved consists of observers only and, in view of the size of the Mission, the Advisory Committee questions the need for a movement control unit of this size.

17. Furthermore, the Committee points out that, in addition to reimbursement at standard rates to the troop-contributing country providing the unit, a provision for mission subsistence allowance has also been made for the personnel of this unit. The Committee was informed that this Mission is unique in that no accommodation or food is provided. The Committee understands that there are few precedents for such a situation and that the closest parallel is the case of staff officers of military contingents in some missions who receive both the reimbursement at standard rates and mission subsistence allowance.

18. Provision is made in annex IV, paragraph 15, to pay mission subsistence allowance for the Signals Unit, consisting of 43 military personnel. The Advisory Committee understands that air fare for these personnel is also being paid by the United Nations. However, the Committee notes that, in paragraph 21 of the report, this item is listed as a voluntary contribution for which no budgetary provision was made. In this connection, the Committee was informed that the Government providing the Unit had expressed the intention of withdrawing it and the Secretary-General was looking into the possibility of introducing some changes in the way the service was financed. The Committee welcomes efforts to provide this service in a more cost-effective manner.

19. As reflected in annexes V and VI to the Secretary-General's report, the estimate for the period 1 January to 31 December 1994 provides for a total of 179 posts to accommodate 124 international civilian staff (36 Professional, 51 General Service, 37 Field Service) and 55 local staff.

20. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as of February 1994 the vacancy factor was 28 per cent for Professional staff and 14 per cent for General Service, Field Service and local staff.

21. With regard to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 23 and 24 of annex IV to the report that his salary is "based on the assumption that during the 12-month period a total of 6 months will be required for the performance of his duties" and, effective 1 December 1993, he is paid on an "as and when employed" basis.

22. The Committee was informed that the Special Representative was on a fixed-term appointment for six months and that, in accordance with a previous recommendation of the Advisory Committee, he is paid on a "when actually employed" basis at the under-secretary-general level; compensation for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General does not entail participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. In addition, the Special Representative receives a daily subsistence allowance when in New York or a mission subsistence allowance depending on the location. The Committee was further informed that the daily salary to be paid when actually employed is calculated by dividing the annual salary for an under-secretary-general ($148,296 gross) by 261 days per year (21.75 working days per month). The Committee was not convinced of the rationale for using the factor of 261 rather than 365. The Advisory Committee intends to examine the administrative and financial issues related to special representatives in the context of the Secretary-General's report on special representatives, envoys and related positions (A/C.5/48/26).

23. With regard to the international General Service staff, the Advisory Committee believes that the number of 51 is high in relation to the size of the operation and should be reviewed. The Committee stresses that, wherever possible, General Service staff should be replaced by locally recruited staff.

24. In connection with local staff, although the authorized number for the previous mandate period is 8 and the proposed number is 55, the difference of 47 does not represent an increase in the total staffing table of the operation. This is because, in the previous mandate period, MINURSO had the services of

47 local staff who were categorized as casual labourers and recorded under miscellaneous services (see annex II, paras. 10 and 31, and annex IV, para. 23).

25. The Advisory Committee notes that salaries and common staff costs for international staff are based on New York standard costs except for international staff on assignment from other United Nations organizations and staff appointed for the Mission. The estimate for the local staff is based on the local salary scale established for Western Sahara (annex IV, para. 6). The Committee was informed that the local salary scale established for MINURSO was based on Rabat standard costs. It is the view of the Committee that the cost of living in Rabat may be higher than that in Laayoune, the headquarters of MINURSO. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recommends a review of the basis for applying the Rabat standard costs to the Mission area.

26. An amount of $97,000 has been provided for two consultants (annex IV, para. 26). The Advisory Committee notes that, in the previous mandate period, a provision was made for consultants to perform functions similar to those enumerated in annex IV, paragraph 26, and the period during which they were utilized was shorter than provided for (see annex II, para. 10); the Committee is not convinced of the need for consultants for six months. It is also the view of the Committee that the payment of $7,700 per month for each of the two consultants is excessive.

27. The estimate provides $4,996,500 for the hire of five medium-size helicopters and $2,352,000 for hiring three light aircraft (annex IV, paras. 49 and 55). This is in addition to one aircraft being provided free of charge to MINURSO by one Government. It is the view of the Advisory Committee that, given the size of the Mission, the number of helicopters and aircraft appears excessive. In this connection, the Committee recommends a review of this item.

28. As indicated in paragraph 8 above, the Secretary-General estimates the requirements of MINURSO at $39,818,400 gross ($37,429,200 net) or $3.3 million gross ($3.1 million net) per month for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1994. Taking into account its recommendations and observations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be given authority to use the unencumbered balance of the initial appropriation for the maintenance of MINURSO at the level of $9 million gross for the three-month period from 1 January to 31 March 1994 and $3 million gross per month each month thereafter pending the receipt of the Secretary-General's report on revised cost estimates (see para. 10 above). As indicated in paragraph 9 above, on the basis of the Secretary-General's estimates, the unencumbered balance should be sufficient to finance the mission for at least 10 months from 1 January 1994.

29. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that outstanding assessments of $20.3 million, unless received in the coming months, will have a significant impact on cash flow and on the maintenance of the operation. This underlines the necessity of prompt payment of assessed contributions by Member States in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/907
17 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 160

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (A/48/846). The Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. UNFICYP became operational on 27 March 1964. Since then the Security Council has extended the duration of the mandate of UNFICYP mainly for six-month periods. By resolution 839 (1993) of 11 June 1993, the Council extended the mandate of UNFICYP for the period from 16 June to 15 December 1993. In his report to the Council of 22 November 1993 (S/26777), the Secretary-General recommended that the Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further six-month period until 15 June 1994.

3. Paragraphs 1 to 19 of the report of the Secretary-General under consideration (A/48/846) elaborate, inter alia, on the mandate and activities of UNFICYP, the status of assessed and voluntary contributions, the financial administration, the status of reimbursement to troop-contributing States, the status of the special account established prior to 16 June 1993, the financial performance report for the period from 16 June to 15 December 1993 and the cost estimates for the periods from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994 and from 16 June to 15 December 1994.

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Government of Cyprus, by a letter dated 15 April 1993 to the Secretary-General (S/25647, annex), conveyed its offer to contribute, on a continuing basis, that is, for the period beginning 16 June 1993 and future periods, a voluntary contribution equal to one third of

the annual cost of UNFICYP. In a subsequent letter, dated 10 May 1993, the Government of Cyprus confirmed that its voluntary contribution for the 12-month period beginning 16 June 1993 would be increased to $18.5 million.

5. By a letter dated 7 May 1993, the Government of Greece informed the Secretary-General of its decision to increase its annual voluntary contribution to UNFICYP to $6.5 million, provided that there was a decision to convert the financing of UNFICYP to assessed contributions and that the structure and the strength of the Force, that is, at least six companies, remained unchanged. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Government of Switzerland had pledged an amount of SwF 1.5 million for 1994.

6. Since the period beginning 16 June 1993, the costs of UNFICYP that are not covered by voluntary contributions have been assessed on Member States.

Financial performance report for the period 16 June to 15 December 1993

7. As indicated in paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/846), total resources made available to UNFICYP for the period from 16 June to 15 December 1993 amount to $21,271,000 gross ($20,943,000 net), while total expenditures for the period were projected at the same level. Annexes I and II of the report provide details in this connection.

8. As indicated in annexes I and II, overruns in expenditure for the period are attributable mainly to civilian police costs ($75,000), international staff ($17,900), infrastructure repairs ($565,300) and helicopter operations ($516,200), offset by savings owing mainly to delayed deployment of military and civilian personnel and related costs.

9. With regard to overruns in expenditure for necessary infrastructure repairs, as stated in paragraph 11 of annex II of the report, prior to 16 June 1993 this work had been carried out by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at no cost to the United Nations. Similarly, with regard to helicopter operations, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increase in expenditure was due to the fact that UNFICYP was now being charged for these services, which had previously been provided free of charge by the United Kingdom Helicopter Flight Unit.

Cost estimates for the period 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994

10. The Secretary-General estimates the cost of maintaining UNFICYP for the current mandate period of six months from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994 at $23,748,000 gross, inclusive of the amount of $6,365,300 gross authorized by the General Assembly in its decision 48/474 of 23 December 1993. Taking into account voluntary contributions of $12,500,000, the Secretary-General is proposing an appropriation of the amount of $11,248,000 gross and the apportionment thereof, for the period from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994.

11. The Advisory Committee was informed that the main reason for the increase in the budget estimates for the period was a reduction in services and support to be provided by the United Kingdom and the assumption of these responsibilities by UNFICYP itself. The Advisory Committee trusts that the

expenditures will level off once UNFICYP has found alternative and cost-effective means for obtaining the required services.

12. As stated in paragraph 2 of annex IV of the report, the cost estimate provides for 1,230 military personnel, consisting of 1,110 infantry and 120 logistical support personnel. In addition, there are 12 military observers and 35 civilian police personnel. As shown in annex III of the report, total costs pertaining to military personnel amount to $11,446,700 including $1,073,700 for emplacement, rotation and repatriation. The Advisory Committee reiterates its concern at the high costs relating to emplacement, rotation and repatriation of personnel, particularly in long-established missions. In view of this, the Advisory Committee recommends that the feasibility of longer periods between rotations be explored and discussed with troop contributors.

13. With regard to international civilian staff, as shown in annex VI of the report, the Secretary-General is proposing an increase of 3 posts in the Field Service category, for a total of 41 posts. As indicated in paragraph 21 of annex IV, these posts are intended to offset partially the reduction in personnel in the United Kingdom Support Regiment. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its report (A/47/1004, paras. 17 and 18) it had recommended against additional Field Service posts. However, in view of this explanation, the Advisory Committee does not object to the three additional Field Service posts at this time. In the same report (A/47/1004, para. 18) the Advisory Committee had recommended the combination of the functions of the existing P-5 spokesman and D-1 senior adviser posts; however, in view of the confidence-building measures and other efforts indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/1994/262), the Advisory Committee does not interpose any objection at this time to keeping two separate posts.

14. As indicated in paragraph 57 of annex IV of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/846), provision has been made for the hiring of some 368 local civilian personnel at an estimated cost of $3,657,500. However, the Advisory Committee was informed that the required level of locally recruited staff would actually be 332, with estimated savings amounting to $603,900.

15. The Advisory Committee recalls that locally recruited personnel for UNFICYP have been obtained through contractual services from the United Kingdom Command Secretariat (A/47/1004, para. 16). The estimates include a 7 per cent administrative charge payable by UNFICYP. On inquiry as to the cost-effectiveness of this arrangement, the Advisory Committee was informed that, inclusive of the administrative charge, the services now being obtained by UNFICYP were more economical than they would be if UNFICYP were to hire local personnel directly. The Advisory Committee trusts that this exceptional arrangement will be monitored and will continue only as long as it is cost-effective for UNFICYP.

16. The Advisory Committee notes that the same provision as in the previous financial period has been made for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, that is, for 50 work days at $568 per day, together with subsistence allowance at $204 per day for 50 days. On inquiry, the Committee was informed the Special Representative has a fixed-term appointment for one year on a "when

actually employed" basis at the Under-Secretary-General level with a salary of $148,296 gross; compensation for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General does not entail participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. The calculation of the daily salary is based on 21.75 working days per month or 261 days per year. The Advisory Committee was not convinced of the rationale for using the factor of 261 rather than 365; the Advisory Committee will revert to this and other related issues in the context of its examination of the report of the Secretary-General on special representatives, envoys and related positions (A/C.5/48/26).

17. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 40 and 41 of annex IV of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/846) that air operations continue to be provided by the United Kingdom Helicopter Flight Unit, with 3 Gazelle helicopters for reconnaissance purposes as well as for medical evacuations. A provision of $904,500 has been made for hire costs for a total of 540 flight hours at a rate of $1,675 per hour. The Advisory Committee recommends that the negotiations which are under way for obtaining these services at a lower rate be expeditiously concluded. Alternatively, arrangements for acquiring the services through competitive bidding should be made to obtain the helicopters at rates comparable to those for similar helicopters in other peace-keeping missions.

18. In view of the Advisory Committee's general observations and recommendations in the paragraphs above and specifically in paragraph 14, the Advisory Committee believes that the cost for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994 should not exceed $23,000,000 gross, inclusive of the amount of $6,365,300 gross authorized by the General Assembly in its decision 48/474 of 23 December 1993. Taking into account the voluntary contributions from Cyprus and Greece (see paras. 4, 5 and 10 above), the amount to be appropriated would be $10.5 million.

19. Taking into account the relatively stable nature of UNFICYP and subject to such decision as the Security Council may take on its renewal after 15 June 1994, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be given commitment authorization not exceeding $3.8 million gross per month for the period from 16 June 1994 to 15 December 1994 and that these amounts be assessed on Member States. The amount recommended takes into account the observations of the Advisory Committee with regard to the period from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994 as well as reductions in requirements under communications, other equipment and services shown in the estimates made by the Secretary-General for the period from 16 June to 15 December 1994.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/908
17 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda items 164 and 173

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) (A/48/636) and the Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) (A/48/837). During its consideration of the reports, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

2. The Security Council, by its resolution 846 (1993) of 22 June 1993, decided to establish UNOMUR, to be deployed on the Uganda side of the border for an interim period of six months. As reflected in paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/636), "the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda is to monitor the Uganda/Rwanda border in order to verify that no military assistance reaches Rwanda, the focus being put primarily in this regard on transit or transport, by roads or tracks that could accommodate vehicles, of lethal weapons and ammunition across the border, as well as any other material which could be of military use".

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that in respect of UNOMUR it authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding $6 million, including pre-implementation costs of $96,700, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/187 of 20 December 1991. As reflected in paragraph 34 of his report (A/48/636), the Secretary-General proposes to appropriate and apportion an amount of $4,392,900 gross ($4,308,000 net) for the operation of UNOMUR for the period from 22 June to 21 December 1993. However, during consideration of the question of the financing of UNOMUR, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the above requirements would need to be revised downwards to reflect savings of $750,600 resulting from delayed

deployment of helicopters to the mission area. The Advisory Committee concurs with the proposed revision and recommends that an amount of $3,642,300 gross ($3,557,400 net) be appropriated for the operation of UNOMUR for the period from 22 June to 21 December 1993.

4. The Security Council, by its resolution 872 (1993) of 5 October 1993, decided to establish UNAMIR for a period of six months and approved the Secretary-General's proposal that UNOMUR should be integrated within UNAMIR. By paragraph 6 of its resolution 872 (1993), the Security Council approved the Secretary-General's proposal that the deployment and withdrawal of UNAMIR should be carried out in stages and noted in this connection that UNAMIR's mandate, if extended, was expected to terminate following national elections and the installation of a new government in Rwanda, events scheduled to occur by October 1995, but no later than December 1995. By paragraph 9 of the same resolution, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to consider ways of reducing the total maximum strength of UNAMIR, in particular through phased deployment without thereby affecting the capacity of UNAMIR to carry out its mandate, and requested him "in planning and executing the phased deployment of UNAMIR to seek economies and to report regularly on what is achieved in this regard".

5. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 33 of his report (A/48/636) that the integration of UNOMUR within UNAMIR will be purely administrative in nature and will not affect the mandate of UNOMUR as set out in Security Council resolution 846 (1993). According to the UNAMIR operational plan, the proposed integration will take place during the second phase of deployment of UNAMIR. In this regard, the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNAMIR (A/48/837) also contains the cost estimate for UNOMUR for the period beyond 21 December 1993.

6. The Advisory Committee notes that, in order to provide various types of humanitarian assistance to the mission area, a United Nations Inter-agency Consolidated Appeal for Rwanda has been initiated and, as at mid-December 1993, contributions and pledges amounting to a total of $53 million had been received. The Advisory Committee requests that humanitarian activities funded by voluntary contributions be fully coordinated, with a view to avoiding possible overlapping, with activities financed from assessed contributions, in order to achieve optimum use of available resources.

Cost estimate for the period from 5 October 1993 to 4 April 1994

7. As indicated in paragraph 43 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/837), the total cost of UNAMIR for the current mandate period from 5 October 1993 to 4 April 1994 amounts to $48,413,800 gross ($47,818,000 net), including pre-implementation costs, for which the Advisory Committee authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding $4.6 million, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/187. However, in the course of its consideration of the report, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the above estimates would need to be revised downwards to $47,884,500 gross ($47,367,900 net). Subsequently, in a corrigendum (A/48/837/Corr.1) to the report, the above estimates were further revised downwards to $45,896,200 gross ($45,379,600 net).

8. As shown in annex I to the corrigendum (A/48/837/Corr.1), the revised requirements of $45,896,200 gross reflect mainly a combined effect of a total decrease of $6,050,600 under civilian personnel costs ($1,003,700), air operations ($3,278,700) and assistance for disarmament and demobilization ($1,768,200), which was to a large extent offset by an increase of $3,672,900 under military personnel costs. The decrease of $1,003,700 under civilian personnel costs relates to a revised schedule of deployment of civilian staff. The decrease of $3,278,700 in the original estimates for air operations is due to the significant delay in the deployment of helicopters to the mission area and to a reduction in the number of helicopters from seven to six. The decrease of $1,768,299, which is attributable to delays in the implementation of the disarmament and demobilization programme during the period from 5 October 1993 to 4 April 1994, will be a charge against a future mandate period, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNAMIR beyond 4 April 1994. The increase of $3,672,900 under military personnel costs relates mainly to the early deployment of the second battalion to the demilitarized zone, which was approved by the Security Council in its resolution 893 (1994) of 6 January 1994.

9. The Advisory Committee is concerned at the high cost of travel of international civilian staff to the mission, which has been estimated at an average of $10,000 per person per round trip, inclusive of the entitlement for 100 kg of excess accompanied baggage, and recommends that the Secretary-General review the travel arrangements and entitlements, in particular the possibility of providing for excess unaccompanied baggage in lieu of the present arrangement for accompanied baggage, with a view to containing the high cost of travel.

10. The Advisory Committee understands that UNAMIR has leased six premises. The Committee believes that efforts should continue to obtain, whenever possible, Government contributions in the form of premises, tents or existing buildings and ablution/shower facilities in the 27 assembly areas.

11. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the operation has a large administrative establishment (total of 152 posts) and recommends that it be reviewed so that the most efficient administrative structure can be achieved. Moreover, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that sufficient justification exists for a P-4 post of information officer, given the fact that the proposed staffing structure of the mission provides for a P-5 post of spokesman in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General; it recommends, therefore, that the P-4 post of information officer be deleted.

12. In view of the request of the Security Council that the Secretary-General "continue to monitor the size and the cost of UNAMIR to seek economies" (Council resolution 893 (1994), para. 7), the Committee recommends that the procurement of communications, office and miscellaneous equipment be made only after a thorough review of the Mission's requirements and after exploring all available means of economy, including the possibility of Government contributions. The equipment should not be more sophisticated than necessary for the effective operation of such a mission.

13. In view of its observations and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate $47,815,000 gross for UNAMIR for the period from 5 October 1993 to 4 April 1994,

inclusive of the $4.6 million authorized by the Advisory Committee under the provisions of Assembly resolution 46/187.

Cost estimate for the period from 5 April 1994 to 4 April 1995

14. As reflected in paragraph 13 of the corrigendum (A/48/837/Corr.1) to the report of the Secretary-General on the Financing of UNAMIR, the cost estimates of UNAMIR for the period from 5 April 1994 to 4 April 1995 have been revised to reflect an increase of $10,707,900 gross ($10,572,900 net), from $98,422,500 gross ($96,110,400 net) to $109,130,400 gross ($106,683,300 net). Annex III to the corrigendum contains a breakdown of the revised estimates by budget line item; as shown therein, the major components of the total increase of $10,707,900 gross are: military personnel costs ($9,288,500), civilian personnel costs ($660,400) and assistance for disarmament and demobilization ($1,758,200). These increases are somewhat offset by a decrease of $368,400 under air operations and a decrease of $827,000 under air and surface freight.

15. Paragraphs 14 and 15 of the corrigendum indicate that the increase of $9,288,500 under military personnel costs is attributable to a delay in the phased withdrawal of military observers and, in part, to a greater number of contingent personnel being in the mission area earlier than originally expected because of the early deployment of a second battalion to the demilitarized zone. The increase is also a result, in part, of a later than expected withdrawal of contingent personnel; while the original estimates provided for a withdrawal of contingent personnel commencing in July 1994, the withdrawal is now not expected to occur until October 1994.

16. As reflected in paragraph 17 of the corrigendum, the increase of $660,400 under civilian personnel costs is attributable to the fact that civilian staff to be deployed during this period will be phased in earlier than originally anticipated.

17. As indicated in paragraph 20 of the corrigendum, the increase of $1,758,200 under assistance for disarmament and demobilization represents the carrying forward of an equivalent amount from the previous mandate period owing to delays in the implementation of the disarmament and demobilization programme.

18. As reflected in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the corrigendum, the decrease of $368,400 under air operations is a result of the delayed deployment of two helicopters to the mission area. The decrease of $827,000 reflected in paragraph 21 of the corrigendum is a result of the projected delayed withdrawal of contingent personnel during this period.

19. In view of the Committee's observations and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Committee recommends that, should the Security Council decide to extend UNAMIR beyond 4 April 1994, the Secretary-General be authorized to enter into commitments at a monthly rate not to exceed $9,082,600 gross, subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee as to the actual amount, for a period until 31 October 1994, to enable him to prepare and submit at the latest by 31 August 1994 the budget corresponding to the new mandate period and the performance report for the current period.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/908*
29 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda items 164 and 173

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) (A/48/636) and the Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) (A/48/837). During its consideration of the reports, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

2. The Security Council, by its resolution 846 (1993) of 22 June 1993, decided to establish UNOMUR, to be deployed on the Uganda side of the border for an interim period of six months. As reflected in paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/636), "the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda is to monitor the Uganda/Rwanda border in order to verify that no military assistance reaches Rwanda, the focus being put primarily in this regard on transit or transport, by roads or tracks that could accommodate vehicles, of lethal weapons and ammunition across the border, as well as any other material which could be of military use".

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that in respect of UNOMUR it authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding $6 million, including pre-implementation costs of $96,700, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/187 of 20 December 1991. As reflected in paragraph 34 of his report (A/48/636), the Secretary-General proposes to appropriate and apportion an amount of $4,392,900 gross ($4,308,000 net) for the operation of UNOMUR for the period from 22 June to 21 December 1993. However, during consideration of

---

* Reissued for technical reasons.

the question of the financing of UNOMUR, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the above requirements would need to be revised downwards to reflect savings of $750,600 resulting from delayed deployment of helicopters to the mission area. The Advisory Committee concurs with the proposed revision and recommends that an amount of $3,642,300 gross ($3,557,400 net) be appropriated for the operation of UNOMUR for the period from 22 June to 21 December 1993.

4. The Security Council, by its resolution 872 (1993) of 5 October 1993, decided to establish UNAMIR for a period of six months and approved the Secretary-General's proposal that UNOMUR should be integrated within UNAMIR. By paragraph 6 of its resolution 872 (1993), the Security Council approved the Secretary-General's proposal that the deployment and withdrawal of UNAMIR should be carried out in stages and noted in this connection that UNAMIR's mandate, if extended, was expected to terminate following national elections and the installation of a new government in Rwanda, events scheduled to occur by October 1995, but no later than December 1995. By paragraph 9 of the same resolution, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to consider ways of reducing the total maximum strength of UNAMIR, in particular through phased deployment without thereby affecting the capacity of UNAMIR to carry out its mandate, and requested him "in planning and executing the phased deployment of UNAMIR to seek economies and to report regularly on what is achieved in this regard".

5. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 33 of his report (A/48/636) that the integration of UNOMUR within UNAMIR will be purely administrative in nature and will not affect the mandate of UNOMUR as set out in Security Council resolution 846 (1993). According to the UNAMIR operational plan, the proposed integration will take place during the second phase of deployment of UNAMIR. In this regard, the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNAMIR (A/48/837) also contains the cost estimate for UNOMUR for the period beyond 21 December 1993.

6. The Advisory Committee notes that, in order to provide various types of humanitarian assistance to the mission area, a United Nations Inter-agency Consolidated Appeal for Rwanda has been initiated and, as at mid-December 1993, contributions and pledges amounting to a total of $53 million had been received. The Advisory Committee requests that humanitarian activities funded by voluntary contributions be fully coordinated, with a view to avoiding possible overlapping, with activities financed from assessed contributions, in order to achieve optimum use of available resources.

Cost estimate for the period from 5 October 1993 to 4 April 1994

7. As indicated in paragraph 43 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/837), the total cost of UNAMIR for the current mandate period from 5 October 1993 to 4 April 1994 amounts to $48,413,800 gross ($47,818,000 net), including pre-implementation costs, for which the Advisory Committee authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding $4.6 million, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/187. However, in the course of its consideration of the report, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the above estimates would need to

be revised downwards to $47,884,500 gross ($47,367,900 net). Subsequently, in a corrigendum (A/48/837/Corr.1) to the report, the above estimates were further revised downwards to $45,896,200 gross ($45,379,600 net).

8. As shown in annex I to the corrigendum (A/48/837/Corr.1), the revised requirements of $45,896,200 gross reflect mainly a combined effect of a total decrease of $6,050,600 under civilian personnel costs ($1,003,700), air operations ($3,278,700) and assistance for disarmament and demobilization ($1,768,200), which was to a large extent offset by an increase of $3,672,900 under military personnel costs. The decrease of $1,003,700 under civilian personnel costs relates to a revised schedule of deployment of civilian staff. The decrease of $3,278,700 in the original estimates for air operations is due to the significant delay in the deployment of helicopters to the mission area and to a reduction in the number of helicopters from seven to six. The decrease of $1,768,299, which is attributable to delays in the implementation of the disarmament and demobilization programme during the period from 5 October 1993 to 4 April 1994, will be a charge against a future mandate period, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNAMIR beyond 4 April 1994. The increase of $3,672,900 under military personnel costs relates mainly to the early deployment of the second battalion to the demilitarized zone, which was approved by the Security Council in its resolution 893 (1994) of 6 January 1994.

9. The Advisory Committee is concerned at the high cost of travel of international civilian staff to the mission, which has been estimated at an average of $10,000 per person per round trip, inclusive of the entitlement for 100 kg of excess accompanied baggage, and recommends that the Secretary-General review the travel arrangements and entitlements, in particular the possibility of providing for excess unaccompanied baggage in lieu of the present arrangement for accompanied baggage, with a view to containing the high cost of travel.

10. The Advisory Committee understands that UNAMIR has leased six premises. The Committee believes that efforts should continue to obtain, whenever possible, government contributions in the form of premises, tents or existing buildings and ablution/shower facilities in the 27 assembly areas.

11. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the operation has a large administrative establishment (total of 152 posts) and recommends that it be reviewed so that the most efficient administrative structure can be achieved. Moreover, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that sufficient justification exists for a P-4 post of information officer, given the fact that the proposed staffing structure of the mission provides for a P-5 post of spokesman in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General; it recommends, therefore, that the P-4 post of information officer be deleted.

12. In view of the request of the Security Council that the Secretary-General "continue to monitor the size and the cost of UNAMIR to seek economies" (Council resolution 893 (1994), para. 7), the Committee recommends that the procurement of communications, office and miscellaneous equipment be made only after a thorough review of the Mission's requirements and after exploring all available means of economy, including the possibility of government contributions. The equipment should not be more sophisticated than necessary for the effective operation of such a mission.

13. In view of its observations and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate $45,826,700 gross for UNAMIR for the period from 5 October 1993 to 4 April 1994, inclusive of the $4.6 million authorized by the Advisory Committee under the provisions of Assembly resolution 46/187.

Cost estimate for the period from 5 April 1994 to 4 April 1995

14. As reflected in paragraph 13 of the corrigendum (A/48/837/Corr.1) to the report of the Secretary-General on the Financing of UNAMIR, the cost estimates of UNAMIR for the period from 5 April 1994 to 4 April 1995 have been revised to reflect an increase of $10,707,900 gross ($10,572,900 net), from $98,422,500 gross ($96,110,400 net) to $109,130,400 gross ($106,683,300 net). Annex III to the corrigendum contains a breakdown of the revised estimates by budget line item; as shown therein, the major components of the total increase of $10,707,900 gross are: military personnel costs ($9,288,500), civilian personnel costs ($660,400) and assistance for disarmament and demobilization ($1,758,200). These increases are somewhat offset by a decrease of $368,400 under air operations and a decrease of $827,000 under air and surface freight.

15. Paragraphs 14 and 15 of the corrigendum indicate that the increase of $9,288,500 under military personnel costs is attributable to a delay in the phased withdrawal of military observers and, in part, to a greater number of contingent personnel being in the mission area earlier than originally expected because of the early deployment of a second battalion to the demilitarized zone. The increase is also a result, in part, of a later than expected withdrawal of contingent personnel; while the original estimates provided for a withdrawal of contingent personnel commencing in July 1994, the withdrawal is now not expected to occur until October 1994.

16. As reflected in paragraph 17 of the corrigendum, the increase of $660,400 under civilian personnel costs is attributable to the fact that civilian staff to be deployed during this period will be phased in earlier than originally anticipated.

17. As indicated in paragraph 20 of the corrigendum, the increase of $1,758,200 under assistance for disarmament and demobilization represents the carrying forward of an equivalent amount from the previous mandate period owing to delays in the implementation of the disarmament and demobilization programme.

18. As reflected in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the corrigendum, the decrease of $368,400 under air operations is a result of the delayed deployment of two helicopters to the mission area. The decrease of $827,000 reflected in paragraph 21 of the corrigendum is a result of the projected delayed withdrawal of contingent personnel during this period.

19. In view of the Committee's observations and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Committee recommends that, should the Security Council decide to extend UNAMIR beyond 4 April 1994, the Secretary-General be authorized to enter into commitments at a monthly rate not to exceed $9,082,600 gross, subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee as to the actual amount, for a period until 31 October 1994, to enable him to prepare and submit

at the latest by 31 August 1994 the budget corresponding to the new mandate period and the performance report for the current period.

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/909
S/1994/345
25 March 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 52
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 23 March 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the English and French versions of a communiqué on the situation in Afghanistan, issued on 17 March 1994 on behalf of the European Union by its Presidency.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 52, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Adamantios Th. VASSILAKIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Communiqué on the situation in Afghanistan, issued on 17 March 1994 on behalf of the European Union by its Presidency

The European Union welcomes the arrival at Kabul of the first convoy of six United Nations trucks and the distribution of food supplies among the suffering population in all areas of the capital. These food supplies represent only a limited part of the assistance needed to alleviate the plight of several hundred thousand citizens exposed to starvation. The European Union expects that such deliveries will continue unhindered to all sections of the population in the future. In this connection, the European Union values all efforts by neighbouring countries as essential in order to facilitate the purchase of goods and the transport of humanitarian assistance to Kabul and to other provinces of the country.

The European Union expresses its full support for the efforts of the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies to relieve suffering in Afghanistan and urges all Afghan parties to take immediate unconditional steps for lifting the blockade of kabul and to ensure free access of relief as well as rehabilitation supplies to the city of Kabul and to other parts of the country.

Recalling its statement of 7 February 1994, the European Union renews its appeal for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Afghanistan and for the beginning of peaceful negotiations.

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/910
S/1994/353
28 March 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 35
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 25 March 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the statement by the Permanent Representative of the United States of America on 18 March 1994, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 904 (1994), the Arab Group at the United Nations would like to reaffirm the general framework that determines the legal status of the Arab City of Jerusalem.

I. The point of departure is an established and undisputed historical fact, namely, that Arab Jerusalem is a part of the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

II. Numerous resolutions have been adopted by the Security Council, the General Assembly and other relevant bodies confirming this fact, among them Security Council resolutions 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 298 (1971) and 471 (1980), which state that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel in Jerusalem, including expropriation of land and properties, which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem are invalid and cannot change that status.

III. The Security Council, in its resolutions concerning the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the most recent being resolution 904 (1994) of March 1994, affirmed the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, of 12 August 1949, to the territories occupied by Israel in June 1967, including Jerusalem, and Israel's responsibility thereunder.

IV. The Security Council, in numerous resolutions, including resolution 478 (1980) of 30 August 1980, affirmed its non-recognition of what Israel termed "the basic law on Jerusalem", and the Council called upon those States which had established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City.

The Arab Group at the United Nations affirms its confidence that all States Members of the United Nations will constantly strive to respect their international obligations arising out of the resolutions of the relevant organs, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the rules of international legitimacy.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Ahmed ELHOUDERI
Permanent Representative of
the Great Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the
United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group
for the current month

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/911
29 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda items 8 and 98

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its decision 1 of 18 March 1994, the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

> The General Assembly decides that the representatives designated by associate members of the regional commissions may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, the preparatory process and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

2. In order for the General Assembly to take action on the aforementioned recommendation of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, it will be necessary to reopen agenda item 98 (International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction).

94-15604 (E) 290394

300394